

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET

25X1

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Strikes and Riots in East Germany	DATE DISTR.	24 June 1953	
	25X1	NO. OF PAGES	2	
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.		25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		

BY CABLE

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. No demonstrations or troop movements were observed at Falkensee between 16 and 19 June. Panic stricken residents bought large quantities of food at food shops which had remained open. During the night of 16 June, a large number of tanks left Neuruppin toward Berlin. On 19 June, Soviet troops with tanks and artillery pieces were stationed at the Stahl-Und Walzwerk in Hennigsdorf where 80 persons had been arrested. Workers performed emergency repairs at the plant. An employee of the Berlin Polizeipraesidium stated that the Volkspolizei had been forbidden to use live ammunition on 16 June but that this order had been rescinded on the following day. Large contingents of regular police had reportedly been transferred from Magdeburg to Berlin on 16 and 17 June. VP ambulances from Magdeburg were also observed in Berlin.

2. [redacted] stated that the workers of the Halle car building factory (VEB Karosserie-werk) went on strike at 8 A.M. on 17 June. At 10 A.M., 15,000 workers at the Buna plant at Schkopau and 35,000 workers at the Leuna plant in the Merseburg area had joined the strike. All enterprises were struck at noon and a total of 220,000 workers had laid down their tools by 3 P.M. The district court and jail was stormed and about 40 political prisoners were liberated. About 50 T-34 tanks were in the town while other tanks sealed off the Saale river bridges. About 500 KVP's at the former Artillerie Kaserne were guarded by the Soviets. A regiment of motorcycle riflemen were dispatched to the town where martial law had been declared at 8 P.M. Fifty tanks which had arrived from the direction of Dessau-Jueterbog during the night of 17 June occupied the exists of the town. On 18 June, all enterprises were on strike save only for the power plants, travel agencies and postal service which had been occupied by the Soviets at noon on 17 June. Trains were 150 minutes late. At 11 A.M. on 19 June, the Halle railroad station was occupied by Russians and VP's. Some enterprises had resumed work on that day. A total of 15 dead and 60 injured resulted from these disturbances.²

SECRET

25X1

STATE	#	ARMY	#	NAVY	#	AIR	#	FBI	AEC					
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	-----	--	--	--	--	--

25X1

SECRET

-2-

25X1

3. Five armored scout cars and eight armored personnel carriers left the Adler Kaserne in Doeberitz for Potsdam at 5 A.M. on 17 June. Twenty T-34 tanks mounted by infantry left the Flak Kaserne at 9 A.M. and 15 trucks left the Loewen Kaserne at 10 A.M. on 17 June. The troops had not yet returned by 20 June.

25X1

4. The Hennigsdorf steelworks were only partly in operation on 19 June. One hundred and twenty persons, including many youths, were arrested when the work was resumed. The Soviet troops occupying the installations were withdrawn on 19 June.

25X1

5. All enterprises in Rathenow had been on strike on 17 June. The strike seemed to have been centrally directed. The chief of the SSD, Willi Hagedorn was slain. Martial law had been declared. Railroad traffic to Staaken returned to normal on 20 June.

25X1

1. ☐ Comment: The above information confirms the employment of the 12th Guards Tank Division in Berlin. In view of the critical situation in Magdeburg, it appears improbable that police forces were transferred from there to Berlin.

25X1

2. ☐ Comment: The figure of 220,000 strikers in the Halle-Merseburg area appears credible. The identity of the Soviet troops employed is still not clear although their direction of approach would tend to indicate that units of the 3rd Guards Mechanized Army were involved. The Halle Artillerie Kaserne is occupied by an infantry unit of the KVP which is assigned to TV 6000.

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET

25X1

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1
SUBJECT	Transfer of VPL Unit from Dresden/Klotzsche	DATE DISTR.	24 June 1953
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1	NO. OF PAGES	1
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCE NO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1
		REFERENCES	

BY CABLE

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

The Yak-11 planes which had been stationed on Dresden/Klotzsche airfield since early 1953 left the field on 4 June. They had not returned prior to 14 June.

25X1

Comment: It is believed that the VPL pilots who were temporarily stationed on Dresden/Klotzsche airfield returned to Bautzen and Kamenz airfields which have once more become available for air activity after the completion of the construction work carried out there.

SECRET

STATE	ARMY	# X NAVY	X AIR	# X FBI	AEC						
-------	------	---------------------	-------	--------------------	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--